REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the office action mailed May 12, 2005. Within this office action, the Examiner allowed Claims 12-19, rejected Claim 1, and objected to Claims 2-11 and Figures 1 and 2. By the above amendments, Claims 1 and 2, and Figures 1 and 2 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-19 are currently pending. Reconsideration of the pending claims with an eye toward allowance is respectfully requested.

Within the Office Action, Figures 1 and 2 have been objected to because they were not designated as "Prior Art." Figures 1 and 2 have been amended to include the notation of "Prior Art". Amended Figures 1 and 2 are being submitted simultaneously herewith.

Within the Office Action, Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jerome et al. "Bump Hunting in High-Dimensional data." Claims 2-11 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner notes that the prior art fails to disclose the steps of "separating the data into Ac+2 lists, such that a list is generated for each continuous attribute to form Ac continuous attribute lists containing the continuous attribute values, a discrete attribute list containing the Ad discrete attribute and the discrete attribute values and a cost attribute list containing the cost output value as recited in claim 2." Applicant concurs that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest such features.

However, Applicant respectfully observes that the prior art even fails to disclose or suggest structure or method wherein at least three lists being generated: continuous attribute lists for each continuous attribute, a discrete attribute list, and a cost attribute list. Therefore, Applicant submits that not all the detailed elements recited in Claim 2 are required for patentability.

Claim 1 has therefore been amended to include some of the limitations of previously submitted Claim 2 and in light of the observation that the art fails to even disclose or suggest at least three lists being generated: continuous attribute lists for each continuous attribute, a discrete attribute list, and a cost attribute list. As a result of such amendments, step (b) of Claim 1 now requires the steps of (i) separating the data into at least three lists; (ii) adding a label to each of the continuous attribute lists, the discrete attribute list and the cost attribute list; (iii) sorting the continuous attribute lists based on a continuous attribute value in each row of the continuous attribute lists; and (iv) adding a label to the cost list. The three lists include a continuous attribute list for each continuous attribute, a discrete attribute list, and a cost attribute list. Each continuous attribute lists contains the continuous attribute values. The discrete attribute lists contains the discrete attributes and the discrete attribute values. The cost attribute list contains the costs output values. The label added to each list is an index of a tuple to which the respective attribute value belongs within the relational data table. The label of step (b)(iv) added to the cost list is a cost flag, initially set to one, that indicates whether the tuple containing the cost output value is enclosed within the hyper-rectangle. As described above, the prior art does not disclose separating the data into at least three lists. Accordingly, Claim 1 is in a condition for allowance.

Claim 2 has been amended to further limit amended Claim 1, inclsuign requiring that the continuous attributes are A_c continuous attributes, the discrete attributes are A_d discrete attributes, and the meta parameter is β_0. Further, the data of step (b)(i) is separated into A_c + 2 lists, such that at least A_c continuous attribute lists are formed. Claim 2 is dependent upon the allowable independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 2 is also in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as Claims 3-11 are also dependent upon the allowable independent Claim 1, they are also in condition for allowance.

The Application being in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

While Applicant believes that no further fees are due at this time, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be due as a result of filing this amendment, including additional claims fees not already paid for, extension fees or other fees that have not been separately paid, to Deposit Account 50-2319 (Order No. A-67321 (466536-34)).

Respectfully submitted,

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